



EL-news



IRTS supporting Amateur Radio

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newsteam@irts.ie **February 2016**

Coolmine Rally



The Coolmine Rally, operated by the Phoenix Amateur Radio Club, will take place at the Coolmine Community School, Grove Road, Dublin 15, D15 FW97, on Sunday the 14th of February. For enquiries and booking of tables, call Tony 087 2439997.

Cork Radio Club



The February meeting of Cork Radio Club will be held on Wednesday next February 3rd at 8pm in Carrigtwohill Community Centre. Plans will be made for the annual outdoor activities like International Marconi Day on April 23rd and the IRTS Field Days on the first weekends of June, July and September. New members will be especially welcome and can contact Dave EI4BZ on 087-6290574 or email ei4bz@eircom.net for further information

Fingal Radio Club EI2FRC

The call in on the 2 metres repeater, operated by Fingal Radio Club EI2FRC, and Dermot EI2HD is now happening on Thursday nights at 7.30pm. This is a change from Wednesday night to Thursday night.

Shannon Basin Radio Club

The Shannon Basin Radio Club will hold a meeting in Hannon's Hotel Roscommon on Friday night 5th Feb at 8.30pm. All members are requested to attend and new members are very welcome.

Return of Cups and Trophies



The 2016 IRTS AGM will be held on the weekend of 9th and 10th April. Jim Holohan EI4HH, Awards Manager, requests that the 2015 Cup and Trophy award holders return their awards as soon as possible, this makes it much easier for the Awards Committee to prepare them for the new recipients. Cups and Trophies can be returned to Peter EI4HX at QTHR or to any IRTS Committee Member. Also, anybody who intends to enter a project for the Folan Shield (home constructed equipment) should familiarise themselves with the rules and requirements in order to avoid embarrassment to all parties on the day.

IARU Monitoring Service

Michael Foertig, EI3GYB, has recently been appointed to the position of IARUMS coordinator. Any incursions into the amateur bands, by commercial or pirate operators, are logged, and reported to other IARUMS coordinators in IARU Region 1 where beam headings and signal strengths may be correlated. Where possible, SDR screenshots are analysed prior to reporting to the Communications Regulator of the country of origin. If you should experience interference or an incursion on any amateur band please log time, frequencies and where possible send an audio file to Michael at michaelfoertig@eircom.net

This is **not** a facility to report local interference or EMC issues. EMC issues are dealt with by the EMC Manager, Brendan Minish, EI6IZ.



IRTS AGM 2016

9/10 April 2016

Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick



Dinner tickets & Rally information contact EI7ALB 087 285 8884

www.irts.ie/agm

Discrepancy Detected in GPS Time



There is no word yet on whether it can be interfaced with amateur radio equipment, however, it may point the way for a future possibility.

On Tuesday the 26th of January, Alto University's Metsahovi Observatory located in Kirkkonummi, Finland, detected a rare anomaly in time reported by the GPS system. The automatic monitoring system of a hydrogen maser atomic clock triggered an alarm which reported a deviation of 13.7 microseconds. While this is miniscule, it is a sign of a problem somewhere, and does not exclude the possibility of larger timekeeping problems happening. The specific source of the problem is not known, but candidates are a faulty GPS satellite or an atomic clock placed in one. Particle flare up from the sun is an unlikely, cause as the observatory has not detected any unusually high activity from the sun.

North Korean DX Operation Questioned



The **P5/3Z9DX** operation from North Korea on 20/21 December 2015, as reported in the January EiNews, has generated more questions than answers. It is alleged that Dom 3Z9DX was in China, rather than North Korea, at the time of the QSOs. Dom's planned second P5 activation is likely to be dependent on a determination, by ARRL's DXCC Desk, of the validity of the December QSOs.

These two [threads](#) on [dxcoffee.com](#) make interesting reading.

First Iranian Ham Contest

To celebrate the 37th anniversary of Iranian Islamic revolution, the first Iranian ham radio contest is going to be held on February 1st 2016. The contest will last for 10 days from Feb 1st 00:00 - Feb 11th 23:59 UTC. All modes may be used during this period on the bands 20, 20, 15, and 10 metres. The object of the contest is to encourage and increase contacts with Iranian radio amateurs. More info from epcontest.2016@gmail.com

Morse App for Apple Watch



A new app has been written for the Apple Watch allowing users to compose SMS text messages using Morse code. The app was written by Patryk Laurent, a cognitive scientist working at the Brain Corporation in San Diego. So far, the app does not appear to be available for download, but a screenshot seen online suggests its working title is "PAKLMORSE2". There is no word yet on whether it can be interfaced with amateur radio equipment; however, it may point the way for a future possibility.

IARU Interim Meetings



Three IARU Region 1 Committees will take place in Vienna, 15-17 April 2016 in advance of the General Conference in Germany in 2017. Committees 4 and 5 address spectrum management, band-planning and operational activities such as IARU-R1 contest rules and associated matters, while Committee 7 deals with EMC.

Amateur licensees in Ireland are encouraged to review the documents submitted and provide comments to the IRTS representatives who will attend the meetings. An overview of the documents is provided on the IRTS web-site at <http://www.irts.ie/iaru-vienna>

IRTS AGM 2016

9/10 April 2016

Limerick

Book Now!

Members Advertisements

For Sale

Yaesu FTDX 3000 – as new condition

€1200

Free Delivery in Ireland

Brendan Rooney - EI7CS - 086 2535855

Wanted

Constant Voltage Transformer, about 1kVA

Pierce O'Brien EI4CI QTHR

WORKSHOP TALKS

We have a stimulating and interesting programme of talks in conjunction with the the AGM Weekend planned for Saturday 9th April. Admission is free.

The programme starts at 1400 and finishes around 1700.

WARC 2015 has granted a new amateur allocation at 5MHz. The allocation should be available from January 2017. Now is the time to prepare. Above our heads aircraft and man-made satellites are whizzing by. Our nearest planet silhouettes the night sky. Learn how we can use these objects to communicate.

And for the home birds there will be plenty to explore under the topic of Radio Sport.

Lots to talk about over dinner.



Radio Sport with a focus on Shorter Contests - Joe Ryan EI7GY

Joe has been contesting since the 1980s and now prefers short events. He was appointed IRTS Contest Manager in 2015, having served as the society's Membership Records Officer from 1991 to 2014. His myriad of contributions to IRTS include the most recent redesign of the society's website.



Using Aircraft Scatter on VHF/UHF/SHF - Andreas Imse DJ5AR

First licensed in 1975, Andreas was always interested in unusual propagation modes including meteor scatter, sporadic E and Moonbounce on 23 and 13cm. After a break he returned to the hobby in 2011 and started experimenting with 23cm EME using a 3m dish. He had a successful International Space Station (ISS)-bounce in 2013 and continues with experiments in aircraft scatter and satellite bounce.

A member of IRTS, Andreas holds the call EI8HH. His article *Aircraft Scatter and ISS Bounce* in the society's journal *Echo Ireland* has received international attention.



NVIS Propagation—Theory and Practice - Steve Wright EI5DD

Steve holds a major interest in exploiting NVIS propagation for local and national use on 160m through 60m. He uses weak signal modes to correlate propagation with Ionogram data. A member of Galway VHF Group he also takes an interest in 6m operation. His involvement with AREN since the 1980s exposed him to planning communication from HF to UHF taking into account the varying terrain around Galway, Connemara and the Burren.



Experimental Amateur Radio using the Radiotelescope in Dwingeloo - Andreas Imse DJ5AR

Since 2009 the Dwingeloo Radio Telescope in the Netherlands has been designated as a National Monument. The 25m dish is available to radio amateurs to experiment with EME. Andreas describes how anyone can work EME with only a simple antenna at one end - and the telescope at the other.